



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

cited to support the latter proposition is inadequate. See *Le Jonet*, L. R. 3 Ad. & Eccles. 556. As to the danger from which the ship was rescued, in view of what is known of Bolshevik treatment of captured ships, it is clear that the facts warranted an award of salvage. It is not necessary that the ship be rescued from the power of a nation acting under the recognized rules of war. *Talbot v. Seeman*, 1 Cranch, 1; *Kennedy v. Ricker*, 14 Fed. Cas. No. 7705.

**BILLS AND NOTES — DEFENSES — ALTERATION — PART PAYMENT WITH KNOWLEDGE OF DEFENSE.** — The defendant was maker and payee of a note which he indorsed in blank. Subsequent to delivery an alteration was made in the date. The plaintiff became the holder of the note but not in due course. The defendant with knowledge of the alteration made a part payment thereon. In a suit on the instrument defendant tried to set up the defense of alteration. *Held*, that he cannot do so. *Green v. Harsh*, 86 So. 392 (Ala.) 1920.

At common law ratification of an alteration is equivalent to original authorization and is binding even if given without consideration. *Goodspeed v. Culler*, 75 Ill. 534; *Humphreys v. Guillow*, 13 N. H. 385; *Malson v. Jarvis*, 133 S. W. 941. And ratification may be gathered from any words or conduct tending to prove its existence. *Canon v. Grigsley*, 116 Ill. 151; *Humphreys v. Guillow*, *supra*. The situation in most cases of alteration is not one lending itself to ratification. The courts evidently use the term to mean acquiescence or approval. On principle it would seem that such subsequent approval should not be binding unless it is given for consideration or is instrumental in producing a change of position. See 2 WILLISTON, CONTRACTS, § 1145; *cf. Ford v. Ott*, 173 N. W. 121. Under section 124 of the Negotiable Instruments Law assent to an alteration by a party bars him from setting up the plea of alteration. That law, however, fails to define what constitutes assent. It is natural therefore to find the courts applying the prevailing common-law view on the matter. Thus it has been held that assent under the new law is sufficient without consideration. *Holyfield v. Herrington*, 84 Kan. 760, 115 Pac. 546. It has also been held that payment of interest accruing on an altered instrument with knowledge of the alteration is enough ground for inferring assent. *Farmers', etc. Bank v. Pahvant Valley Land Co.*, 50 Utah, 35, 165 Pac. 462. And the principal case is in line in holding that the same inference may be drawn from part payment made under similar circumstances.

**BILLS AND NOTES — DEFENSES — FRAUD — RECOVERY BY INDORSEE WITH NOTICE OF VALUE OF CONSIDERATION RECEIVED BY MAKER.** — The plaintiff, as indorsee, sues the defendant, as maker of a promissory note. As a result of the payee's fraud, of which the plaintiff had notice, the defendant received only a part of the stipulated consideration. *Held*, that the plaintiff recover to the extent of the value actually received by the defendant. *Depres, Bridges & Noel v. Galloway*, 224 S. W. 998 (Mo. App.).

It is clear that fraud is ordinarily a defense to a negotiable instrument. *Mead v. Bunn*, 32 N. Y. 275. See NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS LAW, §§ 55, 58; 1909 MO. REV. STAT., c. 86, §§ 10025, 10028. But by the law of contracts the defrauded person is accountable for the value of the consideration that he retains in case he sues the defrauder. *Burrill v. Stevens*, 73 Me. 395; *Ladd v. Moore*, 3 Sandf. (N. Y.) 589. So it would seem not an unfair extension of the law to allow the defrauder a quasi-contractual action for such consideration, and hence the payee in the principal case, had he been denied recovery on the note, should be entitled to recover the value of the consideration actually given. Whether an indorsement of a note amounts to an assignment of the debt is left uncertain by the Negotiable Instruments Law. See NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS LAW, § 30; 1909 MO. REV. STAT., c. 86, § 10001. But one court at least has held that it does. *Goldman v. Murray*, 164 Cal. 419, 129 Pac.